

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

Glucose and other complex sugars used in standard oral rehydration therapy lead to intestinal decomposition with the formation of gases such as methane and hydrogen which have been associated with explosion caused by diathermy (Altomare D. F. *et al.*, *Dis Colon Rectum* 36: 291-2 (1993)). The use of minimally degradable sugars in the compositions of the present invention prevents this from occurring and reduces the incidence of abdominal cramps. In situations however where diathermy is not to be used, the minimally degradable sugar can be replaced in the compositions of the invention with a degradable sugar such as glucose, L-glucose, sucrose, fructose, galactose, or lactose, ~~mannitol or lactulose~~.